



January 2014

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, January 22, 7:30 pm

Members' Slide Show

Location: Room 6, Orinda Community Center (next door to the Orinda Library, see directions below)

Let's start a new tradition with the new year: an annual slide show of **your** photos! Everyone is invited to bring photos of trips and adventures, flowers, gardens, landscapes, plant art—whatever you would like to show to fellow plant lovers. Come to share your images or just to enjoy those that others bring (nonmembers are welcome to present and/or enjoy).

Guidelines

- Contact Sue Rosenthal at sr0433@yahoo.com or 510-496-6016 by January 15 if you'll be bringing images.
- Bring up to 10 minutes worth of images you think would appeal to CNPS members—plants, gardens, landscapes, hikes, trips, work parties, etc.
- Bring digital images on a thumb drive, CD, or DVD. We'll provide a digital projector and a PC laptop. You may also bring your own laptop to connect to the projector; if it's a Mac, please bring an adaptor if you have one. For those who would like to show slides, we'll have an old-fashioned slide projector.
- Prints are also welcome: There will be a table on which you can display them.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in Room 6 of the Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). Room 6 is at the south end of the Community Center building. The room opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Contact Sue, sr0433@yahoo.com or 510-496-6016, if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Community Center at 28 Orinda Way

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the west side of the one-story Community Center building, which is set back from the street on the right. There is additional free parking on the street, next door beneath the library building, and in the parking lot south of the library. Room 6 is at the south end of the Community Center building.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Community Center. Room 6 is at the south end of the Community Center building.

Future Programs

Wednesday, February 26, 7:30 pm

Pete Villeux: Native plant hedgerows for pollinators and wildlife
(Rescheduled from October 2013)

Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 pm

Debra Trock: Collectors and collections: Stories from the California Academy of Sciences

CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2014

The following are the officers of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for 2014.

President: Lesley Hunt

Vice President and Chapter Council Delegate: Bill Hunt

Recording Secretary: Sue Duckles

Corresponding Secretary: Clara Gerdes*

Treasurer: David Margolies

Thanks to the members who showed their appreciation of the work of these dedicated volunteers by voting to elect them.

*Clara Gerdes volunteered to serve as Corresponding Secretary after the ballot was already printed. She will be elected by the Board of Directors at their January meeting.

MYRTLE WOLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Myrtle Wolf Scholarships Reinstated

Due to a generous gift, we have been able to reinstate the Myrtle Wolf scholarships for undergraduate or graduate students working in botany, horticulture, and related fields.

Myrtle Wolf was a long-time, very active member of our chapter and our first CNPS Fellow. She founded these scholarships to help assure we had a new generation of scientists studying native plants.

The original scholarships were awarded to students who were interested in working with California native plants, especially in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. We specifically

encouraged applications from students in the community college system and students in horticulture.

Watch the online *Bay Leaf* for an announcement that applications are open. A committee will review the old guidelines, make any small changes necessary, and then we'll be ready to go. We expect to make the first awards in late spring.

If you would like to help award these scholarships, please contact Lesley Hunt at ldhunt@astound.net or 925-937-6791

Lesley Hunt

AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 2013 MOUNT DIABLO FIRE

On Fri. Nov. 29, 14 CNPS and Meetup members met to look at the effects of the fire and firefighting efforts on Mount Diablo State Park. After discussion at the site, we changed the field trip site to the southeast side of the mountain, and nearer to the summit. In addition to the obvious changes from the fire, high winds in the week before the trip also toppled trees and branches in the burn area, and firefighters had cut up or disked some chaparral areas along the Donner Canyon trails.

In spite of all the extreme conditions, vegetation on Mount Diablo was already resprouting. We found new, vigorous resprouts of oaks, manzanitas, toyon and chamise. Less common plants, including a large stand of dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) were also resprouting. Some of the mosses on trees and rock outcrops were scorched, but others, particularly two *Grimmia* species of moss, did green up within minutes of being splashed with drinking water.

Mammals avoided the area during the trip, but we found deer tracks and several species of birds, including white-breasted nuthatches, acorn woodpeckers and red-shafted flickers.

Janet Gawthrop



Chamise (*Adonostema fasciculatum*) (l.)



Dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*)

POST FIRE HIKE ON MT. DIABLO

This summer's Rim Fire in and near Yosemite has (ahem) rekindled the debate about harvesting burned timber in areas devastated by wildfires. Environmentalists and botanists argue that salvage logging as well as replanting new trees disrupts the development of a post-fire ecosystem. Closer to home, Janet Gawthrop and Gregg Weber led a group on November 29 to view the aftermath of the Morgan Fire that began on September 8 on Mt. Diablo's east side. At first glance, the landscape certainly has changed. Charred stumps—mostly of gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) and some hard to recognize shrubs—along with dead or dying oaks stretched across the hills and valleys of more than 3,000 acres that burned. On closer inspection, however, a number of burned plants were

already stump sprouting including chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*) and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). The Alder Creek area seemed particularly hard hit, but we were pleasantly surprised to come across a huge patch of dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) emerging from the soot. While we're all looking forward to a return visit in the spring to see possibly historic wildflower displays, we are also mindful that much of the Mt. Diablo burn area is steep, and significant erosion and mudslides are possible depending on our winter rains.

Paul Preston and Tim Lukaszewski



Morgan Fire area on Mt. Diablo Photo by Paul Preston



foyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) resprouting Photo by Paul Preston

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) submitted comments for Gateway Park Notice of Preparation (NOP)

On December 6, EBCNPS submitted comments for the Bay Bridge Gateway Park Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report. This project would create a recreational park area at the east end of the new Bay Bridge span.

EBCNPS's main concerns with the proposed project are related to the increased access and restoration proposed for Radio Beach. The beach and its adjacent dune habitat provide habitat for several rare plant species. We are hopeful that the eventual plans for this area include phased restoration and effective protection for the dune habitat to ensure that any increased access via a new trail system does not degrade the ecosystem.

Our comment letter can be viewed at the conservation blog, <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com>

EBCNPS plans to continue to follow this ongoing project and any updates will be posted on the conservation blog.

Tesla Park Update: EBCNPS submitted comments for the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) General Plan Workshop.

On December 13, EBCNPS submitted comments in response to the Preferred Concept Public Workshop held on November

12, 2013, which presented the draft preferred concept for the SVRA General Plan. These comments come in advance of the State's publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Carnegie General Plan Revision, which will consider whether to open the State's 3,400 acre Alameda-Tesla property (Tesla Park) to off-road vehicles for recreation.

The property in question is of concern to EBCNPS because it makes up the core of our Corral Hollow Botanical Priority Protection Area, due to the migration corridor and the habitat it provides for several valuable plant species and communities.

A copy presentation packet from the preferred concept meeting and our response letter can be viewed at the conservation blog: <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com>.

The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. For more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects please visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com>

Mack Casterman

NATIVE HERE

Native Here Volunteer Corner

Thank you to all our waterers for their efforts through the very dry wet-season we are having so far. We will likely continue to need higher than average water augmentation as the winter progresses, which means that anyone who is interested in helping at the nursery this month may be met with much enthusiasm. This is my first holiday season at Native Here and I was very proud of the steadfast dedication of our volunteers through a tumultuous feasting and traveling month. I would also like to give a special thank-you to Janice Bray, one of our longest serving volunteers, who brings so much light and joy to the nursery and our Facebook community.

In January there will continue to be a large number of seedlings to pot up into 4-inch and D-pots, and many of the plants in 4-inch pots will need to go into larger containers as they continue to harden off. This will also be a good month to begin maintenance of some of the nursery stock in one-gallon and larger containers, so come on out if you like playing in the dirt! Charli will continue to sow seeds that are coming out of stratification, and John will continue collection trips for cuttings and winter berries. As the dry weather persists there will also be a number of light-duty construction and

maintenance projects around the nursery with which we will need volunteer help.

Nursery News

Although many customers redeemed our 2-for-1 grass, sedge and rush sale this December, I think that we can do better in the future. Perhaps the low winter rainfall has been keeping gardeners at bay. Remember that while watering natives is most often a temporary rather than long-range measure, water augmentation during unseasonably dry periods is a good tool to keep your garden or habitat healthy, and often necessary for proper establishment.

Our stock is constantly changing this time of year, with many species breaking their dormancy and cuttings that have rooted are potted up for the sales floor. Please use our website www.nativeherenursery.org to view the inventory for January and you may always email, or call during open hours, with any questions. Some horticultural highlights are the wealth of *Sidalcea* which have just begun to be available in 4-inch pots, and the large number of *Delphinium* which will be available "soon."

Margot has bid us farewell as sales Manager, but we are welcoming Molly McClary as our new inventory specialist. Molly comes to us with an impressive background in native horticulture and will help to ensure that our stock gets organized and that special propagation issues are handled with loving care. A part of Margot's lovely article from the December *Bay Leaf* can now be found as an FAQ on the Native Here website, nativeherenursery.org.

On Sunday, January 19th we will begin a series of workshops, which will be organized primarily through our Meetup page (www.meetup.com/ebcnps). January's topic will be winter cuttings and we will practice with nursery display plants. We are piloting a new workshop group which will meet the third Sunday of each month at 12 noon. For this we will charge a

FIELD TRIP

Sunday, January 5, 2:00 pm, field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder's Tongue. Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County).

Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station. David Margolies (510-393-1858, divaricatum@gmail.net) will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*, Liliaceae) blooms in early January. (In most locations outside botanical gardens, it blooms in late January or early February.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder's tongue's presence tells us that the new flower season has started. (Other plants out of flower will also be identified.) The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

RESTORATION

Saturday, January 4, 10:00 am, Point Isabel (Eastshore State Park). Meet at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484.

Saturday, January 11, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park Meet us in the parking lot, where we will decide on the worksite and the weeds to attack after looking at weather and trail conditions. Bring your favorite tool and gloves, but park staff can also provide loaner gloves and tools. For information about the worksite, see the description and photos at the East Bay CNPS page on Meetup.com.

Calling all broom pullers! **Please join us at Pinehurst gate (Redwood Park) for our second Sunday of the month French broom pull.** We will meet at 9:30 am and finish at 1:30 pm. We are making great progress and appreciate all your help. Delicious snacks will be served. I hope to see you on January 12th. If you need directions, please leave a message on our staff voicemail, 510-544-3127.

Monica Kautzer (Redwood Park ranger)
Redwood Operations

small fee of \$25 to cover honoraria. For this we will charge a small fee of \$25 to cover honoraria and other costs, with a discounted rate of \$15 for CNPS members. Future prices will be workshop dependent. Please help us continue to create this as **your** local nursery by contacting us with workshop ideas.

Save the date February 15th for a Plant Fair Planning Meeting. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the 2014 Plant Fair, either in an exciting new role or a comfortable holdfast, should contact me (nativehere@ebcnps.org) or Volunteer Coordinator Steve Toby (stevetoby@comcast.net) to help ensure your top pick for 2014.

Theo Fiianides

How to get there: Go to Woodside: cross the Bay Bridge, get on I-280 south and take it to the 84 west/Woodside Road exit. Go west through the town of Woodside. Soon after the main part of the town, take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right after a few miles. Go past the pay station into the main parking lot. We will meet there. Note that you must pay the parking fee even if the station is not staffed (use the envelopes provided).

Note: There is poison oak in the park. Poison oak is dangerous even when it has no leaves. Stay on the trail. It will probably be muddy and may be raining. Be prepared. The walk will take place rain or shine.

David Margolies

Operations Staff | Park Operations
East Bay Regional Park District
7867 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619
510-544-3127, redwood@ebparks.org, www.ebparks.org

Garber Park Restoration. Start off the New Year by joining us for a two-part restoration workshop in January and February, 2014:

Saturday, January 18, 10 am-1:00 pm, woodland slope restoration in Garber Park, day 1. Join Lech Naumovich, Executive Director of Golden Hour, as he guides us in removing invasive weeds and bioengineering an eroding slope with on-site materials, followed in February by restoring desirable plants.

Saturday, February 15, 10 am-1:00 pm, woodland slope restoration in Garber Park, day 2. On this second day at the woodland slope restoration Site we will remove any weeds that have popped up, and then complete the passive restoration work.

For more information or to RSVP
contact.garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Meet at the Evergreen Lane entrance to Garber Park. Directions: From Ashby take Alvarado Road to Slater Lane, turn right onto Evergreen Lane. The entrance is at the end of the street. A map and directions can be found at www.garberparkstewards.org

Wear long sleeves and pants, and shoes with good tread.

Drinks, snacks, tools and gloves are provided, but bring your own gloves and water bottle if you have them.

Shelagh Brodersen

Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards
garberparkstewards@gmail.com 510-540-1918
www.garberparkstewards.org

Past restoration event, December 7, 2013, southern edge of Hoffman Marsh

Undeterred by the bruising cold front that swept into the Bay Area, twenty-one hardy volunteers showed up at the Pt. Isabel work party on December 7. We were lucky to have been selected by members of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Berkeley as a service project. This very energetic and enthusiastic group, together with new volunteer and CNPS member Roy, and our core volunteers completely removed a massive infestation of ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) that was encroaching into Hoffman marsh at the southern end of the trail. The ice plant team was led by core volunteer, Miriam (aka ice plant empress) who was a member of the original, all-female ice plant removers along the main restoration site. Volunteers also removed every weed at the gateway to the Bay Trail and we will seek permission to plant that area to

increase its habitat value, beautify the entrance to the trail, and minimize weed re-infestations.

After we thought we had completed the ice plant removal, Trinity member Kelly suddenly spotted a second, smaller but significant ice plant invasion on the marsh side so we set to work and pulled it all out. Trinity member, Aaron, and regular volunteer Benny (together with his younger brother Cody), used wheelbarrows to bring out all the ice plant from the marsh to the edge of the trail, creating a 25-foot long pile of ice plant debris. Isolated strands of salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) were struggling to make their way through the heavy carpets of ice plant and the pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*) and sea-lavender (*Limonium californicum*) had been stopped in their tracks by the ice plant barrier. These native plants will now be able to re-populate this southern section of the marsh.

Thanks also to all the other members of the Trinity crew (John, Candi, Bill, Elias, Mark and 2-year old Elijah) and to our core volunteers who did a fantastic job digging out old stands of fennel and huge, deeply rooted patches of cheeseweed malow (*Malva parviflora*).

Our appreciation, as always, to the EBRPD staff for their consistent support of this project at Point Isabel.

Jane and Tom Kelly

Photos by Jane Kelly



Hoffman Marsh restoration crew

continued on page 9



Elias, Cody, Benny, Mark and little Elijah

CALL FOR ARTICLES ON MEMBERS' NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

The CNPS Horticulture Program has begun running a series of articles in the *CNPS Bulletin* on native plant gardens of CNPS members. The first one appeared in the October–December 2013 issue on page 7. Depending on the response, this series could become a regular feature in the state newsletter. The purpose of the series is to inspire others to create their own native plant gardens, or to add natives to an already existing garden.

If you have a native plant garden you feel is special and beautiful, and if you would like to share it with others in CNPS, send us an inspiring article draft of 575–600 words. We hope you'll include your experiences with the garden, as well as just describing what's there. Also include two high-

quality photos (in jpg format, not close-ups) that show off your garden, and one-sentence captions for each. Send your submission to Susan Krzywicki, CNPS Horticulture Program Director, atskrzywicki@cnps.org. If we feel your article can be published, we will work with you through the editing process until it's in final form. We look forward to hearing from a number of CNPS members.

Susan Krzywicki
Horticulture Program Director
California Native Plant Society
619-318-4590
skrzywicki@cnps.org

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megan@stillwatersci.com

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list
Emailled announcements of
upcoming EBCNPS events
List manager--Martha Booz
mlbooz@calnatives.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Theo Fitanides
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Inventory specialist
Molly McClary

Plant Fair

vacant

Restoration

Huckleberry Regional Preserve

Janet Gawthrop, leader
janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Point Isabel

Tom and Jane Kelly, leaders
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net

Marsh Creek

Heath Bartosh, leader
925-957-0069
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

John Muir NHS (Martinez)

Elaine Jackson, leader
925-372-0687
elainejx@att.net

Walnut Creek

Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

☐ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

☐ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ☐ Individual, \$45
- ☐ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ☐ Plant lover, \$100
- ☐ Patron, \$300
- ☐ Benefactor, \$600
- ☐ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ☐ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ☐ Other _____